

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJECT: MIHAJLOV'S LAWYERS UNDER ATTACK

1. MARCH 19 VECERNJE NOVOSTI HAS CONFIRMED AFP REPORT MARCH 16 THAT LC MEMBERS IN VOJVODINA LAWYERS ASSOCIATION HAVE ATTACKED DEFENSE LAWYERS CONDUCT AT MIHAJLOV TRIAL. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS "DEFENDED NOT THEIR CLIENT, BUT THE CRIME HE COMMITTED", ARTICLE STATES. THEY THUS "CLASHED NOT ONLY WITH ETHICS OF THEIR PROFESSION, BUT ALSO WITH CRIMINAL CODE". LAWYERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT PARTICULARLY POINTED OUT "DEEP INSULT" IN DEFENSE COMPARISON OF MIHAJLOV WITH EARLY YUGOSLAV SOCIALISTS SVETOZAR MARKOVIC AND DIMITRIJE TUCOVIC, WHO OPPOSED POLICIES OF SERBIAN KINGDOM IN 19TH CENTURY. MARCH 20 VECERNJE NOVOSTI REPORTS BELGRADE AND SERBIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATIONS HAVE JOINED IN ATTACK.

2. COMMENT: ACTION IN VOJVODINA LAWYERS ASSOCIATION IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED BY LOCAL LAWYERS, ONE OF WHOM IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY EMPLOYEE NOTED INHIBITING EFFECT SUCH ACTION IS BOUND TO HAVE ON DEFENSE IN FUTURE POLITICAL TRIALS.
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